1,027,015,246

Over one billion potential consumers
Making the resources of the Cochrane Collaboration “of, by and for the people” a developing country perspective

Joseph L. Mathew
South Asian Cochrane Network
India
• 394,000 doctors
• 311,235 nurses
• 10,751 dentists
• 18,218 hospitals
• 229 medical colleges

Several thousand potential contributors
India’s role in the Collaboration

- Handful of reviewers
- Few Editors
- Few reviews
- South Asian Cochrane Network – 2004
- Importation of: manpower/ mindpower
  material resources
- Post-tsunami free access
Health care scenario in India

Disease epidemiology

• Developing country problems
• Developed country problems
• Afflicted by natural disasters affecting large numbers
Health care

- Multiple systems: modern system, alternate system, unqualified practitioners
- Multiple sectors: Government sector, Private sector
- Limited free services/insurance cover
- Initial contact of patient often not with facility/personnel offering optimum standard of care
Study Objective

• To estimate the awareness and utilization of the Cochrane Collaboration resources among health care personnel and consumers in India
Method

• Prospective, questionnaire-based survey

• Inclusion: Doctors 100
  - Tertiary care (27)
  - Private practice (58)
  - Government (15)

  Nurses 44

  Medical Research scientists 31

  Consumers 23
Semi-structured questionnaire starting with:

• Are you familiar with the terms:
  Evidence based medicine
  Cochrane Collaboration/ Library
  Systematic review

• If yes, are you:
  Just aware
  Somewhat familiar
  Practicing/ Utilizing
Followed by:

• Brief introduction to concept and practice
• Demonstration of resources
• Awareness workshop(s)
## Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Doc (n=100)</th>
<th>Res (n=31)</th>
<th>Nur (n=44)</th>
<th>Cons (n=23)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Evidence based medicine</td>
<td>49 (49%)</td>
<td>14 (45%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cochrane Collaboration/ Library</td>
<td>34 (34%)</td>
<td>6 (19%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Systematic review</td>
<td>15 (15%)</td>
<td>11 (35%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tertiary care centre (n=27)</td>
<td>Private practice (n=58)</td>
<td>Govt. sector (n=15)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evidence based medicine</td>
<td>27 (100%)</td>
<td>16 (28%)</td>
<td>6 (40%)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cochrane Collaboration/Library</td>
<td>25 (93%)</td>
<td>6 (22%)</td>
<td>3 (20%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Systematic review</td>
<td>11 (41%)</td>
<td>2 (3%)</td>
<td>2 (13%)</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Barriers to utilization of Cochrane Collaboration resources

- Awareness
- Applicability
- Affordability
- Appropriateness
- Access
- Availability
- Acceptability
Barriers to utilization of Cochrane Collaboration resources

Access

• Not accessible at required site
• Lack of country-wide access
• Lack of free trial period
Barriers to utilization of Cochrane Collaboration resources

Affordability

• INR 16,000.00

Acceptability

• Resistance to change
Barriers to utilization of Cochrane Collaboration resources

Applicability

• Most reviews by, for and of developed countries
• Difficult to extrapolate

Availability

• Limited availability of local data
Barriers to utilization of Cochrane Collaboration resources

Appropriateness

• Conclusions often inconclusive
• Need for further research
• Questions highly focused
• Answers, “what is better than…?”
Making Cochrane Collaboration resources in developing countries…

Of the people

• Developing country concerns

• Data from local studies:
  Postgraduate theses
  Trials with negative results

• Sensitivity analysis of data from developing countries in systematic reviews
Making Cochrane Collaboration resources in developing countries…

By the people

• Increase awareness among contributors
• Increase awareness among consumers
• Increase awareness among ‘funders’
• Training and mentorship of contributors
• Introduce ‘contribution’ as a full-time activity
Making Cochrane Collaboration resources in developing countries…

For the people

- Identify most appropriate rather than most effective intervention
- Hierarchy of interventions
- Identify which intervention(s) not to perform
- Increase access among consumers
Make the resources of the Cochrane Collaboration “of, by and for the people” of developing countries